

Archaeological map of Mrauk-U, March 2019

Between 1430 and 1784 the "Arrakan" kingdom, based in Mrauk-U, was a powerful player in the geopolitics of the west coast of Myanmar and the Bay of Bengal, from Chittagong to Tennaserim. European visitors called Mrauk-U "Another Venice" due to its waterways and its wealth.

Bob Hudson (Asian Studies Program, University of Sydney), Massimo Sarti (Polytechnic University of Marche, Italy) Jacques Leider (EFEO), Nyein Lwin, Thein Tun Aung, Win Sein, Kyaw Nyi Nyi Thet, Aung Myo Thu,

Yin Min Tun, Aung Win Kyaw,
Htun Aye, Saw Aung, Maung Maung Nan Nwe,
Kyaw Soe Htun, San Min Aung, Thiha Aung
(Department of Archaeology, Myanmar),
Than Myint (Mrauk-U Heritage Trust)
& Ba Myaing

CITATION

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Mrauk-U (Myohaung), Rakhine (Arakan), Myanmar (Burma

E 93.19368 N 20.59087

SOME FIGURES

- * 246 temples, of which 214 are made of stone- many are ruined.
- * 267 stupas, of which 198 are stone (others are brick)
- * 13 "pitakat-taik", or basket-buildings, named for the "pitaka", the "three baskets" of the Buddhist scriptures. Also called "libraries".
- * More than 140 stone Buddha images (or groups of images) recovered by local devotees and left in the open or covered with shelters.
- * Hundreds more mounds or archaeological features are yet to be analysed.
- * 5 sq km enclosed by stone walls and sidecut hills. The sidecuttings form steep escarpments with a trench at the base and often stone or brick fortifications at the top. The city is surrounded by fortifications, built in the 16th century, when there was a threat of invasion by neighbouring kingdoms. However Mrauk-U (or Arrakan) was so successful that it mostly fought its battles a long way from home, and the city fortifications were probably never used in warfare.
- * 40 sq kms of Buddhist monuments (plus possibly one or two Catholic churches and up to 3 mosques).
- * 20 sq kms of earth banks for water control.
- * More than 4000 mm of rain each year.